

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 18 - 37 are pending in the application. Currently, claims 18 - 35 and 37 stand rejected and claim 36 stands objected to.

In the office action mailed May 31, 2007, claims 18 - 23, 26 - 31, 33 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,850,752 to Lax; claims 24, 25, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lax in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,926,164 to Broadhead et al.; and claims 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lax in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,954,114 to Weisburn et al.

The foregoing rejections are traversed by the instant response.

Independent claim 18 is directed to an anti-theft device for articles, which comprises a rigid parallelepipedal case with two large faces and four sides. A first one of the large faces forms an opening for insertion of an article with dimensions that are essentially the same as those of the case. The first one face comprises a first raised edge that is an extension of one of the sides, wherein the device comprises a trigger member that can occupy a locked position, which is mobile in translation around an axis of a plane of the first face. The trigger member comprises at least

one additional raised edge which cooperates with the first raised edge to prevent the removal of the article contained inside the case. The device further comprises a locking pull rod that is mobile around an axis that is transverse to movement of the trigger member and which can lock the trigger member in the locked position.

The Lax patent describes an anti-theft device comprising a rigid parallelepipedal case with two large faces (23a, 23b) and four sides (25, 26a, 26b, 26c). A first one (23a) of the large faces forms an opening for insertion of an article with dimensions that are essentially the same as those of the case. The device comprises a trigger member (30, 35) that can occupy a locked position which has a raised edge (32) that prevents removal of the article contained inside the case and a locking rod pull (40).

The Lax patent however does not disclose "a trigger member mobile in translation around an axis of a plane of the first face." The trigger member (30) in Lax is rocked around its end opposed to the locking pull rod during locking or unlocking operations (see Fig. 4 in Lax).

Since Lax does not meet all the limitations of claim 18, it can not anticipate same.

It should also be noted that the solution suggested by Lax is not satisfactory since placing and removing the bottom part requires an operation that is not very compatible with quick handling by operators.

Claims 19 - 35 and 37 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 18 as well as on their own accord.

For the foregoing reasons, the instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe an amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, he is hereby invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

A request for a one-month extension of time and a check in the amount of \$120.00 to cover the extension of time fee are enclosed. Should the Director determine that an additional fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

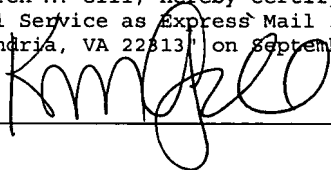
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Date: September 27, 2007

I, Karen M. Gill, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on September 27, 2007.

  
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